

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6635**  
**BILL NUMBER: HB 1118**

**NOTE PREPARED: Dec 18, 2002**  
**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Coyote Bounty.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Grubb  
**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** ☒ **GENERAL**  
☒ **DEDICATED**  
**FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill specifies that the Department of Natural Resources must determine when bounties may be paid on coyotes. The bill provides for payment of verified coyote bounty claims from the Township Dog Fund. The bill also makes conforming amendments.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2003.

**Summary of Net State Impact:** The state impact consists of two portions: Department of Natural Resources bounty administration costs, and reduction of revenue to Purdue University from the State Dog Fund. The cost to the Department is contingent upon administrative action. Reduction of revenue to Purdue is dependent upon administrative action and the number of bounties paid each year.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** *Bounty Provisions:* The Department of Natural Resources is responsible for: (1) determining when a bounty is available in a certain county, (2) adopting rules to implement the requirements of this bill, and (3) having conservation officers receive both a proof of bounty (two coyote ears) and a sworn statement from individuals. Upon determination that a bounty was available in the county at the time the coyote was killed, the conservation officer shall give the individual a coyote claim form.

Given current funding and staff, the Department can adopt rules to implement these requirements at no additional cost. The cost of administering this program is dependent upon Department administrative action. The Department is responsible for determining when and where a bounty is available for a coyote. If the Department determines that no areas in the state require a bounty, then there would be no additional cost associated with this bill. An estimate of the number of bounties that would be paid under the provisions of

this bill is not available and is contingent upon administrative action.

*Background Information:* Coyotes are considered a furbearer and regulated by the Department of Natural Resources. Department regulations allow for both hunting and trapping of coyotes from October 15, 2002, through January 31, 2003, (for trapping) and through February 28, 2003 (for hunting). Coyotes may be called with mouth or hand-operated calls, or with the use of recorded calls. Spotlights may be used to take coyotes. In addition, there are no restrictions on hunting hours or firearms that may be used to take coyotes.

The Department indicates that the coyote population is stable. The Department uses two indices in developing population trend data for coyotes. The Department tracks the number of coyote pelts purchased by licensed fur buyers and the number of coyotes seen by archers per 1,000 hours of observation. The number of pelts purchased is subject to fluctuation due to pelt prices.

**Table 1: Coyote Population Index**

Year	Number of Coyote Pelts Purchased
2000-2001	1,713
1999-2000	1,019
1998-1999	940
1997-1998	1,763
1996-1997	2,082
1995-1996	2,351
1994-1995	2,150
<b>Average</b>	<b>1,716</b>

**Table 2: Coyote Population Index**

Year	Coyotes Seen by Archers*
2000	20
1999	25.9
1998	24.9
1997	19.9
1996	18.8
1995	21.5
1994	14.6
<b>Average</b>	<b>20.8</b>

\* Number of animals seen by archery deer hunters per thousand hours of observation

**Explanation of State Revenues:** *Dog Tax Fund:* The township assessor and/or designated licensed veterinarians collect dog taxes. The township turns over any amount in the township dog fund above \$300 to the county auditor who deposits the funds into the county dog fund for payment to townships with unpaid claims. Annually, counties turn excess funds over to the State Auditor for deposit into the State Dog Fund. The state is required to keep a balance of \$50,000 in the State Dog Fund. Excess funds are used to: (1) reimburse the state's expenses for dog tag purchases, (2) reimburse county auditors who have township trustees with unpaid claims, and (3) distribute 50% of the balance, up to a maximum of \$100,000, to the Purdue University Veterinary School for canine research. The remaining balance is returned to county general funds in proportion to the county's contribution to the State Dog Fund.

Purdue University Veterinary School for canine research receives a portion of the excess dog tax money each year. In FY 2002 Purdue received \$81,359 from this fund (see Table 3 for more information). This bill will reduce the amount of money available for this use. The amount of the reduction is dependent upon the

number of bounties paid each year. Assuming that all costs are constant, payment of 1,000 coyote bounties would reduce the revenue transferred to Purdue by \$2,500. Actual reduction is dependent upon Department of Natural Resources administrative action and the number of bounties paid.

**Table 3: Dog Tax Fund Information**

FY	Begin Balance	Excess to State Fund	Dog Tag Expenses	Return to County Fund	Distribution to Purdue	Distribution to Co GF	Ending Balance
2001	\$54,714	\$249,388	\$57,124	\$8,838	\$96,707	\$96,707	\$50,000
2002	\$51,182	\$235,330	\$57,484	\$16,311	\$81,359	\$81,359	\$50,000

Note: The total for distributions is approximate due to refunds and timing of receipts and transfers. In addition, beginning and ending balances may not correspond due to timing of receipts and transfers.

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** The township trustees are responsible for paying coyote bounties from the local dog fund. If sufficient funds are not available in the local dog fund, bounties are to be paid from the state dog account.

To the extent that these duties can be performed within the scope of trustees' current duties, costs may be limited. An estimate of the number of bounties paid under the provisions of this bill is not available and is contingent upon Department administrative action. Total costs to townships are also unknown and dependent upon administrative action.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:** See *Explanation of State Revenues*.

**State Agencies Affected:** Department of Natural Resources.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Townships.

**Information Sources:** Dan Mathis, Legislative Liaison, Department of Natural Resources, 317-233-6904; *Indiana Handbook of Taxes, Revenues, and Appropriations*, Indiana Legislative Services Agency, FY 2002.

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